

COUNTRY Germany REPORT

TOPIC KVP in Oranienburg

EVALUATION [REDACTED] PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED]

DATE OF CONTENT [REDACTED]

DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED] DATE PREPARED 29 April 1953

REFERENCES [REDACTED]

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) [REDACTED]

REMARKS [REDACTED]

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1. From 6 to 10 a.m. on 8 March 1953, two KVP trains were unloaded in Oranienburg. [REDACTED] 8 tanks mounting tank guns of about 80-mm, 10 SP guns which, he said, were of model SU 76. 4 two-axle armored scout cars and 60 trucks [REDACTED]

The trains seemed to be occupied only by an escort party. After being unloaded, the vehicles left in the direction of the former Sachsenhausen concentration camp.<sup>1</sup>

2. Another shipment including about 50 assault boats and an unidentified number of trucks was unloaded during noon hours on the same day. The trucks were loaded with canvas-covered iron cases, about 400 x 40 x 40 cm. The assault boats were trucked away in the direction of the Sachsenhausen concentration camp. VPs said that the shipments observed on 8 March arrived from Prora via Loewenberg.<sup>1</sup>

3. In connection with mourning ceremonies for Stalin, seven march groups each including about 100 KVP officers and NCOs marched downtown at noon on 9 March. The men wore new-styled uniforms with red-bordered black epaulets.<sup>2</sup>

4. At about 10 a.m. on 6 March, a train of about 14 flatcars, each loaded with two new two-axle trucks, was unloaded at the Oranienburg freight station. The train was escorted by two officers and about three KVPs per truck. After being unloaded, the trucks went to the former concentration camp on Bernauer Allee.<sup>1</sup>

5. Another train which carried about 10 two-axle trucks, 20 T-34 tanks and included 4 boxcars with KVPs was unloaded at about 9 a.m. on 7 March. After detraining, the soldiers left for the concentration camp where the tanks were allegedly parked at installations No 110 and 111 of section No 3.<sup>1</sup>

6. On 11 March, KVPs were located in section No 3 which was the east section of the former Sachsenhausen concentration camp. The sentries observed wore dark-blue uniforms.<sup>3</sup>

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7. On 12 March, Oranienburg Castle was still occupied by about 1,000 men. No heavy weapons were observed. The men underwent drill with rifles and submachine guns and were regularly trained at several drillgrounds including a square at the rear of the castle park, a ground near Havelhausen and a square at the rear of the former Kayser factory. KVP patrols were recently observed in the city in addition to Soviet patrols. Rumors said that the castle, which was under reconstruction, would be occupied by the county administration with the rear section still occupied by a VP school.

8. [redacted] Colonel Leverenz (fnu), commander of the KVP at Oranienburg Castle [redacted] 1,600 VPs excluding officers and 140 woman KVPs were quartered in the castle and two other companies were expected to arrive soon.<sup>4</sup>

9. In the evening of 27 February, four T-34 tanks [redacted] were observed leaving Oranienburg Castle in the direction of Kremmener Strasse. After passing through Germendorf and proceeding about 500 meters beyond the village, the tanks entered the woods. In the evening of 2 March, VP units totaling about 500 men, who wore red-bordered black epaulets and carried field packs and small arms, marched out of the castle in the direction of Sachsenhausen. They allegedly performed a routine march with pack. In the morning on 3 March, units totaling about 500 men, who carried small arms and were equipped with heavy machine guns, marched to the target range at the former clinker plant at the rear of Lehnitz sluice. They also carried furled banners. Prior to late February, two other low wooden buildings were set up on the terrain at the rear of the castle. They brought the number of low wooden buildings to twenty.<sup>4</sup>

10. [redacted] between 7 and 10 March, the former Sachsenhausen concentration camp was occupied by several thousand KVPs who were quartered in section No 3. About 100 T-34 tanks were allegedly observed when the troops detrained at the Oranienburg railroad station.<sup>5</sup>

11. [redacted] one company arrived from Pinnow on 8 March.<sup>6</sup>

12. In the afternoon of 13 March, seven T-34 tanks [redacted] were observed on practice drives in the terrain east of the Sachsenhausen railroad station. Four tanks were apparently occupied by KVPs and the others by Soviet soldiers.

1. Comment. [redacted] trains heading to Oranienburg came from Grossenhain [redacted]

Several units were sent to Oranienburg from the area of Armeegruppe Nord in January and February. [redacted] The trains which arrived allegedly from Prora on 8 March may have carried reinforcements from Armeegruppe Nord to Oranienburg. The train with engineer equipment probably arrived from Fuenfeichen near Neubrandenburg where two or three engineer battalions of Armeegruppe Nord are carried, rather than Prora. Since the divisions of Armeegruppe Nord have personnel in excess of authorized strength and since this personnel [redacted] was scheduled to be reassigned to units under activation, the reported





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observations may be correct. It is believed that a new KVP unit, possibly a division, is under activation at Oranienburg. The activation of this unit with regard to replacements and supplies of weapons and other materials seems to mainly involve the Grossenhain KVPD and Armeegruppe Nord. It cannot yet be determined to which Armeegruppe the Oranienburg unit will be assigned.

2. Comment.   
 this detachment was probably furnished by the AAA school in the castle.
3. Comment. A large number of KVPs still wear old-style uniforms.
4. Comment. It is concluded from the observations that other KVP units are located in the castle in addition to the AAA school.
5. Comment.   
 The number of 100 tanks seems to be overestimated.
6. Comment. It is believed that this company was transferred to the Oranienburg unit from the 1st Inf Regt of the Prenzlau division in Pinnow.

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